

# Nation

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# I've got my eye on you

by Will Nicholls

"I've got my eye on you," is a phrase you would usually expect to hear from a father of a young teenager. In this instance, it was a rude awakening. As someone with a long history at a First Nations publication, I pretty much expect that Canada's various intelligence agencies spy on us. I even screw around on the phone with the understanding it might be tapped. Intelligence gathering organizations would be foolish to ignore the possibility that people or organizations they are interested in would contact the magazine.

I've mused about this possibility in the past. But I am a person who wants and believes in our fundamental right to privacy. Thus, when I come across a news headline in the online publication The Dominion that reads, "Canada's Spy Groups Divulge Secret Intelligence to Energy Companies," I was flabbergasted. I was outraged and quietly checking my underwear for skid marks. After all, we don't know how far they're willing to go with "secret intelligence."

What about all those companies getting government spooks to spy on environmental groups and First Nations for them? I know it sounds bad when your private life is revealed to corporate Canada without your consent or knowledge. But let's not get too crazy and just take a breather before giving free rein to a volcanic flow of righteous anger. At least give me time, as a corporate citizen, to obtain a Secret Level II security clearance that Natural Resources Canada has already granted to over 200 industry representatives. According to a statement by former Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn, "This enables us to share information with industry and their associations."

Damn, I really want to see those reports. Maybe we could help to defuse situations? Of course I could recommend that spying on Greenpeace should be minimized to save taxpayer money. After

all, they are the ones paying for this political/business co-venture. One would expect that the people who have paid for the protection provided by governmental intelligence agencies would not welcome subsidizing the business world's ability to pry into our lives.

And what will or can be done with the access that business now has to all of us non-corporate citizens? Well, one thing that can be done is targeting individuals and their families economically. Need a job? Well, that time volunteering for Greenpeace might work against you. Now I'm not saying ideals will be crushed under the corporate boot, I'm merely implying that. Your right to change people's minds and public opinion is something that can now be considered a threat to your livelihood.

Current Natural Resources Minister John Oliver responded to this story by saying that environmental groups "threaten to hijack our regulatory system to achieve their radical agenda." That tells you whose side he's on and why this might be happening, despite our constitutional right to contest government decisions.

In the end, it comes down to one thing. In my office, I learnt that the phone system has a way for one phone to listen in on any other phone like an intercom. My immediate thought was "cool – teach me how to do that." After a while my next thought was, "Is there a way to block it?" I started to laugh as I realized the significance of the two.

It was a question of right and wrong. It is wrong to destroy a person's privacy for profit. A government belongs to the people and as such they can share knowledge of our ideals and associations. But one that sells its own people's privacy for nothing cannot be representative of the people. As such this use of intelligence, if it's justified at all, should be in-house and not shared with private business interests.

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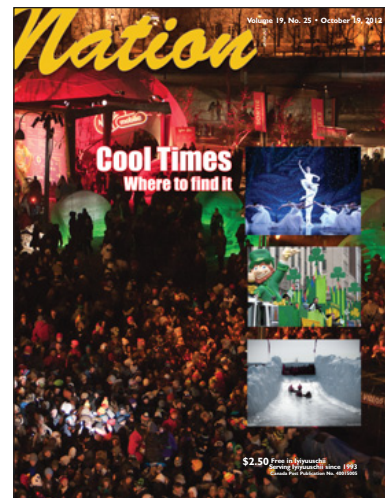
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# Size 22 please

by Sonny Orr



My aunt still talks about the times of old when life was simple and rugged, when the world around us was young and generally wild. There were very few aircraft streaking across the skies or helicopters buzzing around, and not one two-stroke or four-stroke engine to be heard. Only the silent footsteps of the local wildlife and the winds of the north swirling around could be heard – in other words, the sounds of nothing but nature.

Today, it's about the same kind of silence that greets you when you leave the trails that are now just about everywhere. The gravel roads and rough logging trails have penetrated the deep forests and lands of the north, so you can go just about anywhere. This has led to some intrusion to lands that cannot be shared without some mishaps or problems to the denizens of the north. These lands have become too populated for one of our most secretive of creatures and now, it has to go someplace quieter.

Far north, where not even the sturdy black spruce tree can survive, two Inuk women were out berry picking and enjoying the lands. Up there, there is nothing to hide from and nothing to hide behind, in case you have to. These two women came across that kind of situation as they were harvesting some sweet succulent berries. They noticed that, not too far off, some large creature was heading their way. Being Inuk, it is quite the pleasure to meet a large animal, since that usually means supper for many. But in this case, it didn't look like an animal they recognized. In fact, it looked part human.

They described the creature as being tall, with long hair covering its body. It walked with great strides, but some-

times crawled along. When it stood up, the women were astounded to see that it was clearly twice the height of an ordinary man (maybe three times for the Inuit) and had hominid features. It loped towards them, without fear. This caused the pair to turn around and head back to town in fear on their ATV. A bit later, they returned with a digital camera, and recorded one of the first footprints of a Bigfoot creature in Nunavik.

Are the legends, that were meant to scare us into troubled sleep when told before bedtime, now coming to life? Is the Bigfoot the real thing? My aunt, who would tell me stories about these creatures, explained that they are curious creatures that sometimes try to get the attention of humans by throwing sticks or stones at them. She told me that no matter how hard you tried to see them, they couldn't be seen, due to their incredible hiding abilities and very intimate knowledge of the lands.

My grandfather told me of how the taller creatures would break off the top of young trees, so if, in your forest wanderings you came across trees broken off at about 15 feet or so, then you discovered a classic Bigfoot territorial marker. If you hear some sharp wail that you might mistake for an eagle or some predator animal, most likely you are hearing the call of the Bigfoot. If you think you may be looking at a bear standing upright in the distance, but aren't quite sure if it is, then you are probably looking at a Bigfoot. If someone or something is tossing sticks and stones at you from the bushes, then most likely, you are within spitting distance of one of the most elusive creatures known to mankind.

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

L. Stewart, W. Nicholls,  
N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Will Nicholls

IYIYU AYIMUUN EDITOR  
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR  
Martin Siberok

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

J. Mei, D. Coyle, S. Orr, A. German,  
A. Levitas, L. Stewart, J. Staniforth,  
D. Moczula, X. Kataquapit,

## PHOTOGRAPHY

A. German, N. Diamond,  
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES  
Linda Ludwick

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin Raye, Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire

## PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

K. Larocque

DESIGN AND LAYOUT  
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

*The Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

*The Nation* HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.nationnews.ca

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: for Danielle Valade

ads@beesum-communications.com

for Ginette Grégoire

publicity@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: news@beesum-communications.com

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# Remembering our sisters

news

## Montreal hosts its 7th annual Sisters in Spirit memorial march and vigil

by Dan Moczula

This October 4 marked the 7th Annual Sisters in Spirit Memorial March and Vigil. About 200 people gathered at Place Émilie-Gamelin in downtown Montreal to call attention to Native women who have been killed or gone missing.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) was a research program initiated by the Native Women's Association of Canada. From 2004 to 2010, SIS documented over 582 cases of Native women who had gone missing or were murdered. In 2010, the Conservative government cut the funding for this program.

Despite the end of financial support for SIS, the quest for social justice is still alive in the annual Sisters in Spirit Memorial March and Vigil, which continues to take place every October 4.

The SIS march has grown rapidly and this year 158 cities in Canada and abroad hosted marches and candlelight vigils.

The Montreal branch of the Sisters in Spirit Memorial March and Vigil was organized by Missing Justice, a political advocacy group that is part of Concordia University's 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy.

The first annual Sisters in Spirit March and Vigil was founded in 2005 by Bridget



Nina Segalowitz

was denied by the provincial government. With the support of SIS she took to the street to draw attention to Aboriginal women all over Canada whose murders or disappearances were

Women for an inquiry into these murders and disappearances.

This year's ceremonies began with the Buffalo Hat Singers who filled Place Émilie-Gamelin with their drumming and singing. Afterwards several speakers were invited to give their take on this endemic violence.

Nina Segalowitz, the Inuit throat singer who has worked with Aboriginal survivors of violence, commented on the resilience of Aboriginal women. "We've had 500 years of a lot of oppression, a lot of violence against us from all over and yet we're still here today standing strong."

Irkar Beljaars, a Mohawk activist who started the Sisters in Spirit March in Montreal, commented on the growth of the movement despite the lack of government recognition. "When I started this seven years ago we had 30 people.

"WE'VE HAD FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF A LOT OF OPPRESSION, A LOT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST US FROM ALL OVER AND YET WE'RE STILL HERE TODAY STANDING STRONG."

Tolley, an Algonquin woman who turned activist when her grandmother was killed in a hit-and-run involving a Quebec police officer.

Tolley's call for an independent investigation into possible police misconduct

not given proper investigation due to racism and sexism.

The Harper government has ignored calls by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against





Buffalo Hat Singers

The second one had 50 and every year since it has grown. Everybody Native and non-Native alike has to join and march with us.”

Other speakers spoke on behalf of the Quebec Branch of Amnesty International and Quebec Native Women Inc.

Before the march set off Mohawk hip-hop group Essence performed for gathered protestors.

Families were invited to get in the front of the march, which set off with a minimal police escort.

Amid chants of “Our Native Women are under attack, what do we do? We fight back!”, the march headed westward along de Maisonneuve.

The march’s destination was Phillips Square where candles were handed out and a moment of silence was observed to commemorate all the Native women who have fallen victim to violence.

After the moment of silence, Aboriginal rights activist Ellen Gabriel addressed the crowd illuminated by candlelight. “We need to bring all our sisters home...and until people like Stephen Harper understand that they’re not going to get anywhere because they think they have the power. But I can see from this crowd we have the power to make change.”

The annual SIS marches have increased the pressure on the Harper government to launch a public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

In light of the record turnout for the SIS marches and vigils, Liberal Aboriginal Affairs critic Carolyn Bennett released a statement “calling on this Conservative government to take immediate action to deal with this systemic problem, including establishing a public inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.”

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Cree Human Resources Development (CHRD) in partnership with ECN and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) is seeking highly motivated individuals to be part of the new generation of ICT Technicians to operate and maintain the fibre optic telecommunications network recently deployed in Eeyou Istchee and James Bay.

If you have a High School Diploma or you are a Technical Person or are motivated to work in a high technology environment, please contact Mr. Blazo Voyageur, Program Coordinator for CHRD/ECN Fiber-Optics and Telecom training program at [blazo@chrd.ca](mailto:blazo@chrd.ca) or at (418) 923-2525 and ask what CHRD can do for you.



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# School and sports

## Sports Academy brings the Sports-Études experience to Waskaganish

by Daniel Coyle

news

Across Quebec each school year, thousands of student-athletes, including a number of gifted Aboriginals, take part in the Sport-Études program run by the Quebec Ministry of Education and various sports leagues and associations across the province.

No such program has ever been offered in Eeyou Istchee – until now.

With the start of school in September, the Waskaganish Sports Academy rolled into operation.

The brainchild of Waskaganish Recreation Director Charles J. Hester and Joel Brooks, a recent graduate of University of Waterloo, where he developed the Sports Academy concept during his university co-op studies in Wemindji, the Waskaganish Sports Academy has an ambitious mission.

Its aim is to provide the resources necessary through community organizations, schools, parent groups and social-service agencies to create and implement innovative programming for the advancement and achievement of today's youth.

The Sports Academy is driven to promote healthy lifestyle choices and support students with their educational career to encourage a successful transition into adulthood with the best opportunity to succeed.

Simply put, the academy is designed to improve young students' attendance, school participation and overall wellbeing.

Currently, the Sports Academy is focusing on children in Grades 3 through 6. However, the objective is to offer the concepts to all students, from young children up to and including high-school students.

"It is a traditional Sports-Études program," said Brooks.

Because most Sports-Études programs are offered in larger cities and communities, Cree students who have



Sylvester Moar, Sports Academy Student Athlete of the Week

qualified for Sports-Études, such as Hester's son Alexander, who attended school in Amos last year while playing hockey with the Forestiers d'Amos, must leave their hometown in order to have the opportunity.

"We want to provide kids with the same opportunity at home," said Brooks. "We work with the minor hockey and sports associations in Waskaganish.

"The bar for Sports-Études is very high. Right now, this is a basic introduction to that kind of program. At this point, we want to encourage school involvement, attendance, punctuality, good behaviour, getting homework done, and we reward the kids with sports they are interested in, for those who are doing well in those areas," said Brooks.

Currently, there are 101 students in Grades 3 through 6 participating in Sports Academy programs. Students are

broken into two groups (Grades 3 and 4, and Grades 5 and 6). On alternating weeks, each group participates in Sports Academy activities for one hour a day. To maintain their place in the program, students must demonstrate hard work in the classroom.

"If a kid is not doing well or not participating in the program, we need to ask ourselves why," said Brooks. "What is holding the kids back from attending school, being on time, getting homework done. Over time we can learn what challenges the student is facing. We can talk with teachers, and do what we have to do to improve the student's chances of success."

Brooks looks forward to extending the Sports Academy to high-school students in Waskaganish and to other communities in Eeyou Istchee.

"Getting high-school students involved will be very important for the

Waskaganish Sports Academy facebook page, with permission



Sports Academy,” explained Brooks. “Not only will older students benefit from the programs we will provide, but they can also serve as role models for the younger students, getting them more involved in both sports and school.

“We hope to be able to extend the Sports Academy to other communities; we are talking about that right now.”

The Waskaganish Sports Academy does not yet offer the same elite level student-athlete programs as the provincial Sports-Études program; gifted Cree student-athletes still need to leave home to pursue those opportunities.

However, if initiatives like the Sports Academy raise the bar on student participation in the classroom, resulting in better grades, better behaviour and improved lifestyles for Cree children, it will be an excellent step forward for education in Eeyou Istchee.

For more information on the Sports Academy, visit their facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Sports-Academy-Waskaganish](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sports-Academy-Waskaganish).



Teamwork - Grades 3 and 4

Waskaganish Sports Academy facebook page, with permission



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## Negotiations halt on Native education reform

Plans between Ottawa and the First Nations to overhaul the Native education system have fallen apart.

The federal government and First Nations leaders were discussing plans for legislation that would create school-board-type systems, giving Native governments more control over their education systems.

However, the plans were rejected and discussions halted on October 4 after three days of meetings. Many Native leaders were unhappy with the proposed legislation, believing too many closed-door decisions were being made by Ottawa and that the educational reforms would not be beneficial to all communities.

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo has recommended that Native leaders continue consulting options with their communities as discussions will continue in December.

The high-school graduation rate for some Native communities is under 50%. Still, many leaders believe the proposed legislation would not solve this problem.

"A prescriptive, regulated system is not the solution in our communities," said Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. "We're not going to let Canada make everybody

think that the solution to low graduation levels is resolved by a legislated solution."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the government will continue pushing the legislation forward and is willing to continue negotiations with communities on a one-on-one basis.

## Nemaska Hospital opening rescheduled

The official opening of the Nemaska Hospital was moved from its original October 5 date due to a conflict with the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services.

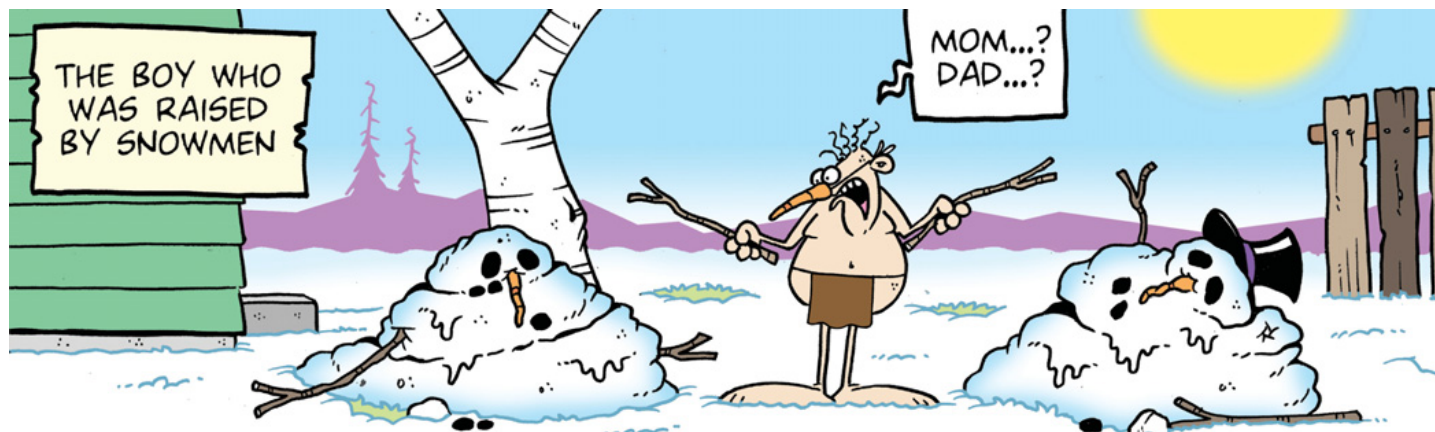
Dr Réjean Hébert could not attend the ceremony on October 5.

Hospital Director Beatrice Trapper said that the ceremony is being rescheduled to accommodate the minister.

The future date is to be announced, yet despite the lack of an official opening the hospital is open to serve members of the community.



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: [www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)





# Cool times during the cooler seasons

*The Nation's* guide to cool-weather fun, festivals and tourism for fall and winter

by Amy German



photo by Miguel Legault

**A**s the days grow shorter and the air colder, many crawl under the blankets on the couch seeking comfort and coziness from the fall and winter weather.

And then there are those who are already planning their escape from cabin fever by buying concert tickets and perusing other cultural events to keep their minds whirring and their hearts pounding amidst yet another hockey strike.

Just because it is cold outside doesn't mean that the province of Quebec has closed up shop for the winter. There is a whole flurry of activities for those venturing south looking for good times with family and friends.

Whether it's outdoor winter dance parties to hot techno or artisan craft fairs to stuff Santa's sack with or taking in the likes of Neil Young or Leonard Cohen or "the Beib" at the Bell Centre, *the Nation* has listed it for you in one easy-to-use guide.

And with that we bring you our first-ever fall and winter tourism guide.



## Festival Fun, Special Events and Public Parades

While Montreal may be the ultimate destination for festivals and outdoor concerts during the hot-and-sweaty summer months, the city's hearty folk are just as adamant about good times and cultural celebrations during the cooler seasons.

While a great deal of the kinds of festivities Montreal is known for move indoors, there are major events designed to keep bodies warm and moving during even the darkest times.

### Arab World Festival of Montreal

Designed to celebrate the many wondrous artistic jewels of the Arab world as a means of bridging the gap between Arab culture and the Western world, this diverse and fascinating festival runs from October 26 to November 10.

Offering performing arts, a culture forum, cinema and much more, this celebratory festival presents a myriad of different artistic disciplines designed to engage the spirit while simultaneously evoking reflection and experimentation during the cultural exchange.

Come and see the famous whirling dervishes, Middle Eastern cinema and listen to world-beat music.

For more info:  
[www.festivalarabe.com](http://www.festivalarabe.com)

### Cinemanía

Oh-la-la! Cinemanía, Montreal's exclusively French cinema festival, is back for another jam-packed event of Francophone fun, running November 1-11.

The leading French film festival of the Americas, Cinemanía has been celebrating the best of French-language cinema of the year; this little fest began in 1995 and has been growing year after year.

For those who feel that their French may not be up to snuff to enjoy these fabulous flicks, worry not, the entire festival is subtitled in English to make the films accessible to both locals and tourists alike.

For more info:  
[www.festivalcinemanía.com](http://www.festivalcinemanía.com)

### The Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)

Bringing cinema-goers the absolute best of this year's documentary films, the RIDM annually presents an incredible selection from Canada and around the world for both professional and general audiences.

Telling society's truths through cinema while giving audiences an up-close and personal view into little-known worlds, documentary film has always been the backbone of Quebec's cinema culture, making Montreal the hub to celebrate it in style. RIDM takes place at various locations November 7-18.

For more info: [www.ridm.qc.ca](http://www.ridm.qc.ca)



### The Montreal International Dog Show

This show has gone to the dogs, literally! Are you in love with your pooch-a-marooo? On the market for a new breed of pup? Want to see what dog breeders are like up close? Well, then this is the show for you!

This pup-o-ramic event includes three Canadian Kennel Club Licensed Conformation Dog Shows, four Obedience Trials and two Rally Obedience Trials.

At Place Bonaventure November 2-4, hundreds of dogs, exhibitors and breeders will be onsite. Patrons can meet breeders at the Eukanuba's Breeders Village for a one-on-one chat and peruse the many vendor kiosks at the show to check out the latest in services, supplies, crafts and gifts for dogs and their owners.

For more info: [www.dess.ca](http://www.dess.ca)

### The 53rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show

If you are all about rocking it out, literally, the Gem and Mineral show is for you. Just in time for you to start making your holiday gifts and shop for some incredibly unique gifts, this show features a wide variety of semi-precious gems, jewelry, sculptures, pearls, beads, fossils, tools and minerals coming from many local vendors and an additional 100 from outside of Quebec.

This year's show will feature gems from mines in Afghanistan, Africa, Brazil and North America. There will be all sorts of sculptures made from agate, serpentine, amazonite, rose quartz, jasper and other minerals as well as one-of-a-kind handmade sterling silver jewelry, semi-precious stone beads, a large collection of pearls, and silver and gold fittings for do-it-yourself jewelry projects.

Also an educational event, this show is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to learn about gems and minerals. At Place Bonaventure November 2-4.

For more info:  
[www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca](http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca)

### Le Salon Mieux-Vivre 50+

Despite the many generations below them, the baby-boomer generation is still the most dominant force out there, with many of them now in their 60s.

Looking at the best ways to live healthy for those over the age of 50, this exposition is all about how to extend your longevity and the best in health, fitness and nutrition for those who may not be young but want to remain young at heart. At Palais des congrès November 3-4.

For more info:  
[www.salonmieuxvivre.ca/images/stories/pdf/Pub\\_Montreal.pdf](http://www.salonmieuxvivre.ca/images/stories/pdf/Pub_Montreal.pdf)

### La Grande Dégustation de Montréal

Formerly known as the Wine and Spirits Show of Montreal, La Grande Dégustation de Montréal is the new annual edition of this specialty wine, spirit and beer show put on by the SAQ.

With literally thousands of new alcoholic products to test and often purchase, this is the ultimate showcase for

the budding sommelier or Scotch aficionado. In its new format, this show not only brings out all sorts of products that would usually have to be specially ordered but also showcases and celebrates certain regions of the world with each show to introduce the public to new delights and delicacies.

This year Portugal is the country of honour, so expect to see many fabulous Portos (port wine) up for tastings. Cabernet sauvignons and rums from all over the world will also be highlighted.

If you are looking to stock up on impressive and exclusive alcoholic products for your executive gifts this year, this is the ultimate place to find a rare champagne, a spectacular Armanac or a fanciful liqueur. At Palais des congrès November 8-10.

For more info:  
[www.lagrandedegustation.com](http://www.lagrandedegustation.com)

### Le Salon du Livre

If you are a bookworm looking to expand your collection or want to see what is new in Francophone literature for youth or adults, the Le Salon du Livre is the premier event to celebrate literacy and the French language. At Place Bonaventure November 14-19.

For more info:  
[www.salondulivredemontreal.com](http://www.salondulivredemontreal.com)

### M for Montreal

The only major music festival in November, M for Montreal was launched in 2006 by Montrealer Sébastien Nasra of Avalanche Productions and legendary British festival programmer Martin Elbourne, who is famous for putting on the Glastonbury Festival and The Great Escape in the UK and co-founder with Peter Gabriel of the WOMAD festival.

Running from November 14-17, this incredible event will be staging acts like Of Monsters and Men as well as Plants and Animals for exclusive shows.

While the whole lineup hasn't been announced yet, expect a whole host of goodies, dance parties and major musical events geared at stealing your heart while blowing your mind.

For more info:  
[www.mformontreal.com](http://www.mformontreal.com)

### The Santa Claus Parade

While the holiday-themed commercials may have already started on TV and festive decor will pop up within an hour or two of Halloween being over, nothing heralds the Christmas spirit like the arrival of Santa Claus during his own parade down St. Catherine Street on November 17.

This special children's parade takes place on a Saturday morning at 11am and features a whole host of family activities for folks small or tall. With shows, shopping and so much more, the Santa Claus parade is a magical tradition to start now or maintain for generations to come.

For more info: [www.destinationcentreville.com/en/santa-claus-parade](http://www.destinationcentreville.com/en/santa-claus-parade)

### Expozine

Running from November 17-18 in a small church basement in Montreal, this incredible but little known festival is all about "zines" or small magazines, often put out by very dedicated groups to showcase alternative writing and perspectives as well as fan-zines and so much more.

Come and find little mags on your favourite bands, handmade comic books, and zines from around the world. Many of these products are made just for this event and are fascinating worlds within themselves. Hosted in the basement of the Église Saint-Enfant Jésus near the Laurier métro.

For more info: [www.expozine.ca/](http://www.expozine.ca/)



### The Nutcracker Market

As the Nutcracker ballet is another cherished holiday classic and a traditional event to take in for many families, now you too can wander into the magical world of Clara's dreams to shop in a majestic holiday-themed environment for specialty items.

Featuring delectable gourmet delights, exclusive jewelry, eye-dropping holiday decor (that nobody else has), incredible fashions, toys, gifts and lots more, the Nutcracker Market is the ultimate place to go Christmas shopping.

At Palais des congrès November 28-December 9, this is the ultimate in spectacular places to bring the whole family for some one-of-a-kind shopping to get everyone into the holiday spirit.

For more info:  
[www.congresmtl.com](http://www.congresmtl.com)







### The Hockey Expo

Do you have a budding NHL star in your home? Well if you do or you don't but you want to learn everything there is to know about hockey and be among like-minded folks then the Hockey Expo is the place for you.

At Place Bonaventure November 30-December 2, the Hockey Expo is the place to get in touch with a full range of resources and information related to all aspects of the development of a hockey player, for kids and adults alike.

Geared towards players, parents, coaches, referees and other volunteers, this show is about showcasing the latest when it comes to everything our national sport entails, including mental preparation, the latest equipment and technologies, on-ice and off-ice training, sports medicine and therapies, and coaching and nutrition.

For more info:  
[www.expohockey.com](http://www.expohockey.com)

### Salon des métiers d'art du Québec

If you are looking for unique Christmas gifts and quality hand-crafted goods, the

Salon des métiers d'art du Québec is the ultimate place to check out fabulous creations when shopping for your loved ones and even yourself.

This event began in 1955 and over the last six decades it has become Canada's largest show and sale of professional crafts.

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has even had their own booth at this event in the past.

Featuring everything from hand-made craftworks to leather, wood, wool, knit and canvas creations, this is the place to purchase everything from local artisanal confections and wines to state-of-the-art fashions.

An experience for the whole family, this event is at Place Bonaventure December 7-22.

For more info:  
[www.metiers-d-art.qc.ca](http://www.metiers-d-art.qc.ca)

### The Snow Village

As we call in the New Year, a new seasonal favourite for Montrealers and tourists is our very own snow village on Île Sainte-Hélène.

While ice hotels have been constructed all over the world, Montreal is the only city to get not only a hotel, but a series of incredible attractions, all made out of ice and snow. The village includes the ice hotel, heated spas, snow igloos, an ice restaurant with a well-known chef, an ice bar with a terrace, meeting rooms, an ice chapel for weddings, a snow sculpture exhibit, a snow labyrinth,

a snow slide and a series of incredible replicas of Montreal buildings.

The projected construction completion date for this year's village is January 4, 2013, and this is the ultimate venue for your next party, romantic getaway, executive meeting or dinner on the town.

For more info:  
[www.snowvillagecanada.com](http://www.snowvillagecanada.com)

### Le Grand Salon Marions Nous/Let's Get Married

Are you planning a wedding for 2013 or 2014? If so, why not check out the ultimate one-stop shop to look at everything from dresses to flowers to venues.

Featuring the latest in bridal fashions, makeup, decor, honeymoons and everything wedding related, this event will help you plan your special day. At Place Bonaventure January 5-6.

For more info:  
[www.marionsnous.ca/index.cfm](http://www.marionsnous.ca/index.cfm)

### Igloofest

Right when the peak of cabin fever begins to hit in January, the folks from Piknic Electronik start the good times rolling again with the ultimate event to boogie down in your snowsuit at Igloofest.

Running three days a week for four consecutive weeks, Montrealers and tourists alike don their warmest and craziest winter gear and head down to the quays of the Old Port for an intensive rock-ing dance party amidst the most breathtaking setting, a scenery made from snow, ice and an intensive amount of lighting.





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Pre-Conference Trainings  
November 24, 25, 26, 2012

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Code: Group Dialogue for Life

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Deadline November 9, 2012

Ista Natasha Smoke Santiago

### PRE-CONFERENCE 3 DAY TRAININGS: (November 24, 25, 26, 2012)

- 1) HOLISTIC HEALING FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS & THEIR FAMILIES: Dr. Mary Louie Cohen
- 2) ABORIGINAL FOCUS ORIENTED THERAPY AND COMPLEX TRAUMA: Dennis Windigo
- 3) THE CIRCLE OF LIFE, WHY WE NEED TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS & PARENTS: Jane Middleton-Moz
- 4) PATHWAYS TO HEALING: Don Robinson & Gerald Folster
- 5) ATTACHMENT A NATUREL GROWING RESOURCE – SPREAD TRUST OR MISTRUST: Claire Béland
- 6) BRIDGING THE GAP: Judy Desmoulin
- 7) LEARNING TO HELP: A CRASH COURSE ON BASIC THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES: Steven Schachter
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- Training and information sessions
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## DEAR MOM, DAD, AND CAREGIVERS

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- During sleeping hours, my brain secretes a powerful hormone that:

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- \* raises my immunity level against illness
- \* makes me calm and ready to learn in class.

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Your Child

Contributed to The Nation by Maquatua Eeyou School, Wemindji, Quebec, September 2012.



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Also featuring some of the world's best DJs, this incredibly innovative festival is all about breaking a sweat amongst several thousand other folks dancing it up, having tacky snowsuit competitions and celebrating the beauty of winter in the city.

Held on January 17-19, 24-26, 31 and February 1-2, 7-9, this is one of the greatest parties of the entire winter season and is not to be missed, no matter how cold it is.

For more info: [www.igloofest.ca](http://www.igloofest.ca)

### The Car Show

Automobile enthusiasts can rejoice. The Car Show is finally back and takes place at Palais des congrès January 18-27.

Featuring the latest in automobile technology, the 2013 models, luxury cars, the sweetest in leather seats, the trucks with the most muscle and the latest in hybrids and electric cars, this is the ultimate event to get your own motor running and heart pumping.

For more info:  
[www.salonautomontreal.com](http://www.salonautomontreal.com)



### Le Salon de l'Amour et de la Séduction

The ultimate event to get your internal motor running and your senses aroused, the Love and Seduction show is all about keeping it lively and sexy and how to enhance your love life.

Featuring everything from live entertainment (think Magic Mike) to lingerie

and sexual enhancement product sales, seminars, body painting and lots more!

This sexy show is the place for couples looking to keep things lively or singles looking to beef up their game. Running from January 18-20 at Place Bonaventure.

For more info: [www.montreal.everythingtodowithsex.com](http://www.montreal.everythingtodowithsex.com)

### The Fête des neiges de Montréal

If you happen to be in Montreal between January 19 and February 10 with the family, why not bring them down to the Snow Village for some good-old-fashioned family fun?

The city's top family event of the season, families are invited to play together in the magical winter wonderland while participating in some tube sliding, zip-lining and boot or ice hockey and skating along the river.

With mascots, warm-up stations and loads of hot chocolate, this is a great way to have an active day in the dead of winter.

For more info:  
[www.parcjeandrapeau.com](http://www.parcjeandrapeau.com)

Running from February 7-10 at Place Bonaventure.

For more info:  
[www.salondubateau.com](http://www.salondubateau.com)



### The Montreal Travel Show

Have you been thinking about doing some actual globetrotting? Travel legs itching to go? Whether you are looking to plan a family getaway that is more than the average trip down south or the trip of a lifetime to somewhere exotic that you have always dreamed of, one of the best places to start planning is the Montreal Travel Show.

Featuring information on all kinds of world travel that you may or may not have dreamed of, travel tips, speaker series and much more, this exotic show runs February 16-17 at Palais des congrès.

For more info:  
[www.montrealtravelshow.com](http://www.montrealtravelshow.com)

### Montreal Hunting, Fishing and Camping Show

This show is the ultimate event to bring the bushmen (and women) into the big city to see the latest in gear, guns and much more.

Featuring hundreds of kiosks with information on the latest hunting, fishing and campaign technology, trips to outfitting camps, boats, trucks, hunting dogs and, strolling through the isles of this convention you are more than likely to run into some Crees flogging their own wares. Runs February 21-24 at Place Bonaventure.

For more info:  
[www.montrealcampingshow.ca](http://www.montrealcampingshow.ca)

### Montréal en Lumière

In the dead of dreary February comes a brilliant ray of sunshine in the form of culture, parties, exclusive gastronomic

events, an electrical light playground and lots more with the Montréal en Lumière festival.

From the same folks who put on the Montreal International Jazz Festival and Les FrancoFolies de Montréal, this L'Équipe Spectra event has the same incredible large-scale professionalism that the company is known for.



Also known as the Highlights Festival, it is one of the largest winter festivals in the world with annual celebrations attracting over 900,000 to enjoy Montreal in all its winter splendour with a unique program that combines performing arts, gastronomy, free outdoor family activities, and one incredible evening of all-night activities.

Since its beginning in 2000, this festival has attracted some 400 chefs from around the globe to participate in the special culinary events, while some of the best talent in music, circus arts, song, theatre and dance from home and abroad take over the stages of this festival.

A special glow-light playland is set up in the quays of the Old Port that features ice slides, rides, warm-up fires, s'more stands and live entertainers.

Held February 21-March 3 at various locations, this festival is guaranteed to chase your winter blues away.

For more info:  
[www.montrealenlumiere.com](http://www.montrealenlumiere.com)

### The Port Symphony

Imagine a symphony comprised of trains, tugboats and boats moored in the Old Port for the winter, and other urban

instruments? For two Sundays (March 3 and 10), this unique, free and absolutely fabulous event goes down much to the joy of Montreal and tourists alike.

For more info:  
[www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/calendar-of-activities/cultural-activities/pointe-a-calieres-port-symphonies](http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/calendar-of-activities/cultural-activities/pointe-a-calieres-port-symphonies)

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Celebrating the Irish in Montreal and the day that St. Patrick supposedly drove all the snakes out of Ireland, the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Montreal is North America's longest consecutive-running parade.

St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in Montreal as far back as 1759 and the parade itself began on March 17, 1824.

Now in its 190th edition, this parade tells Montrealers that spring is finally on its way and is synonymous with Irish-style partying in the streets.

On Sunday, March 17, 2013, down St. Catherine Street.

For more info:  
[www.montrealirishparade.com](http://www.montrealirishparade.com)

### Expo Manger Santé et Vivre Vert

Ultimately one of the Nation's favourite shows to cover, this health food and green living expo is about showcasing all of the latest food and lifestyle trends when it comes to living well.

With hundreds of delightful new products to sample, new green products for your home to learn about and purchase as well as all sorts of information on physical fitness, massage, spa get-aways and lots more, this is a great show to attend if you are starting a health kick or want to improve your life.

An ideal show to visit for those with dietary restrictions as well, this show always has the latest products for those who can't eat things like gluten or sugar and will frequently have all sorts of organic products on sale. At Palais des congrès March 15-17.

For more info:  
[www.congresmtl.com](http://www.congresmtl.com)

### Other events and cultural shows to consider

There is a lot going on during the fall and winter in Montreal that it can look

like an ongoing cultural extravaganza. From knock-your-sox-off concerts to spellbinding dance shows to world-class theatre experiences, there is never a dull moment when you're looking for entertainment in the city.

### Major Concerts and Shows

Whether or not the hockey season resumes, it's no reason to cut your travels short as there is a whole world outside of hockey to discover.

While we can't list all of them, here is a list of some of the bigger shows coming to Montreal.

### At the Bell Centre

Check out '90s grunge-rock sensation, Smashing Pumpkins on October 28, The Australian Pink Floyd Show on November 2, Journey on November 5, ZZ Top on November 7, Bob Dylan and his Band with Mark Knopfler as his opener on November 16, The Who on November 20, Metric on November 21, Neil Young and Crazy Horse on November 23, teen sensation Justin Bieber on November 26, and the incredible Leonard Cohen on November 28-29.

December 2 brings dog whisperer Caesar Millan and on December 9 it's comedian and showman Jeff Dunham. Then as a special holiday event, the Cirque de Soleil classic, Saltimbanco, returns to the Bell Centre for 10 shows running between December 19-30.

Cultural entertainment does not start up again at Montreal's largest venue until February 1 when songstress and one-time Andrew Lloyd Webber muse, Sarah Brightman, takes to the stage. Later that month, pop diva and performance artist Lady Gaga takes the stage on February 11 and Swedish House Mafia plays on February 27.

On March 12, Pink takes the stage for a night of rockin' pop fun, Barbados singing sensation Rihanna plays March 17 and finishing off the winter season, Heart plays March 25.

For more info: [www.centrebelle.ca](http://www.centrebelle.ca)

### Metropolis

If you are looking to see a show in a more intimate setting, perhaps one



where you can actually see what the artists are wearing, see the sweat roll down their foreheads and get what they are feeling from the vibes they give off, look no further than some of the incredible acts coming to Metropolis.



Here are a handful of upcoming shows to check out:

October 25 brings '80s band, Air Supply, followed by The Weekend on October 29, Sonar on Tour November 3, Dethklok on November 5, Sum 41 on November 10, followed by Bassnectar on November 11, Of Monsters and Men play November 17, the Dropkick Murphys on November 18, A\$AP Rocky play on November 20, Dumas on November 23 and Emeli Sandé on November 24.

December brings Band of Horses on the 6, Xavier Rudd on the 7, Tegan & Sara on the 16, Alexisonfire on the 23 and La Revue de l'année Des Zapartistes running from December 27-29.

For more info:  
[www.montrealmetropolis.ca](http://www.montrealmetropolis.ca)

### Place des Arts

If world-class entertainment and classic arts are more your style, there is no better venue than Place des Arts to catch an enthralling ballet or modern-dance show, some of the world's most

famous actor/comedians, an opera or a symphony concert.

Here are some highlights of the incredible acts coming to Place des Arts in the coming months; please note that MSO means Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

The end of October sees Sinfonia Toronto chamber orchestra on October 28.

November kicks off with modern dance show Political Mother by the Hofesh Shechter Company of the United Kingdom running from November 1-3. The MSO does a special night of Mendelssohn, Vorišek and Mozart on November 4, the Zemlinsky Quartet on November 5, bluesy pop rock sensation Melissa Etheridge on November 6, modern dance presentation Usually Beauty Fails by the Frédérick Gravel / Grouped'ArtGravelArtGroup (Quebec) runs on select dates from November 7-17.

On November 7, the MSO puts on Dvořák's Cello Concerto. The MSO is back two days later on November 9 to present The Sibelius Violin Concerto with special guest Hyeyoon Park on the violin.

Opera fans can also rejoice in November as the Opéra de Montréal stages the German classic of The Flying Dutchman on the 10, 13, 15 and 17.

Then November 13-14 brings modern dance show, Diptych, a new piece by José Navas of the Compagnie Flak of Quebec, followed by Military Marches: classical or electronic? Put on by the MSO on November 14, a double-bill dance show on the 16 & 17 features Busk + Awàa by Aszure Barton & Artists and on November 18, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra plays Shostakovich.

Running for eight engagements from November 21-25, Broadway Across Canada, Evenko, producers Thomas Schumacher of Disney Theatrical Productions and Cameron Mackintosh proudly present Mary Poppins for the first time in Montreal.

Jazz fans can enjoy Montreal sensation Susie Arioli on November 22, the Magic of Dance show put on by the Bellydance Superstars on November 24 and the MSO returns November 27 with Bartók: Sonata for pianos and percussion and then The Shostakovich 10th on November 28.

Those looking for something exotic can catch an incredible dance double bill with Weight X 3 + 2 and Tao Ye put on by the TAO Dance Theater of China running from November 27 to December 1.

Jesse Cook plays on November 29, followed by renowned soprano Anne-Marie Faniel in the Quebec production of Vincerò on November 30,

December starts out big at Place des Arts with Jerry Seinfeld doing two shows on December 1. And four days later, Robin Williams takes the stage on December 5 and Celtic pop sensation Loreena McKennitt plays December 6-7. The MSO puts on Bach and the Romantics on December 7 and on the December 8 sees the Distant Worlds Philharmonic put on the Music from Final Fantasy. Also on December 8, Bach and the great Romantics return with an evening of Bruckner.

Then, running December 13-30, is holiday classic The Nutcracker put on by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.

Also getting into the holiday spirit, the MSO puts on Christmas according to Bryan Perro December 14-15.





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If you're in town with the family on December 22, why not take the kids to see a live presentation of Pinocchio put on by the Théâtre Tout à Trac?

Coming to Place des Arts for 2013:

Salute to Vienna on January 1; Shen Yun runs from January 3-6; Billy Elliot runs from January 8-13; La Verità – Compagnia Finzi Pasca (about the life of Salvador Dali) from January 17-February 3; La chauve-souris/ Die Fledermaus



(Opera) January 26-February 2; Louis-José Houde / Les heures verticales February 12-16; Celtic Women February 25; Diana Krall February 26; and Dead Man Walking (opera) March 9-16

For more info: [www.pda.qc.ca](http://www.pda.qc.ca)

## Theatre

When it comes to the best that English-language theatre in Montreal has to offer, there is no better venue to enjoy a gut-wrenching drama or a knee-slapping comedy than The Centaur. A classic and truly gorgeous theatre, the building was at one time the Montreal Stock Exchange and is a majestic setting to take in a slice of life for a night.

Running from November 6-December 9 is the Canadian premiere of Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright

David Lindsay-Abaire's Good People. Directed by Roy Surette, this wildly funny play is about an out-of-work hard-luck Boston mom's struggle to care for her disabled daughter and the lengths she will go to in pursuit of the American Dream.

Running from January 29-February 24 is Innocence Lost: A Play About Steven Truscott, a bone-chilling drama by playwright Beverly Cooper. Also directed by Roy Surette, this Canadian play tells the true story of a sleepy Ontario town in 1959 where justice goes horribly wrong after the rape/murder of a 12-year-old girl.

Then Mark Doherty's Trad runs from February 24- March 26. Directed by Andrew Shaver, this is the tale of an Irish centenarian and his father, both disabled, and their epic journey across the Irish countryside to find the last remaining successor in their family line.

For more info:

[www.centaurtheatre.com](http://www.centaurtheatre.com)

The Centaur and Place des Arts aren't the only venues for incredible theatre in Montreal, to see more listings for smaller productions in theatre and music, check out what's playing at the Segal Centre ([www.segalcentre.org](http://www.segalcentre.org)) or Mainline Theatre ([www.mainlinetheatre.ca](http://www.mainlinetheatre.ca)).

## Museums

Like any major city, Montreal has its own incredible laundry list of museums for arts, science and nature. Here are some highlights of upcoming shows and information other Montreal museums.

### The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

At Montreal's biggest and brawniest art museum, there are some major collections coming this year that are bound to inspire any spirit.

From October 13 to January 20, there is a special collection of Renoir and Monet works celebrating light and colour entitled Once Upon A Time... Impressionism: Great French Paintings from the Clark.

Running from January 30 to June 16 is Peru: Kingdoms of the Sun and the Moon, an exhibition that will redefine

anyone's outlook on Peru through its historical artifacts and artworks.

For more info: [www.mbam.qc.ca](http://www.mbam.qc.ca)

### The Montreal Science Centre

Whether you want to take in the latest IMAX film or explore in an environment that is all about science learning for kids and families, there is no better place to spend a gloomy day inspiring your mind than the Montreal Science Centre.

Don't miss Musik: From Sound to Emotion, from November until March, this major exhibit from Edmonton is all about the creation of music and its connection of the mind and body. This is a special project in collaboration with Montreal rock group Simple Plan.

Dinosaurs Unearthed features some of the world's most realistic animatronic creatures, including some feathered dinosaurs, along with life-size skeletons and lots of fossils, this incredible show runs from October 20 to March 11 and is all about the pre-historic world.

With several other shows coming to this museum, including amazing exhibitions on the science of glass, human sexuality, water and respiration, there is much to discover at the Montreal Science Centre that one visit can change your outlook forever.

For more info: [www.montrealsciencescentre.com](http://www.montrealsciencescentre.com)

Whether you are looking to explore history, archeology, architecture, fine arts, modern art, learn about the tragedies of the Holocaust or the beauty of exotic ecosystems from around the world, there is a museum for just about everything in Montreal.

For more info: [www.museesmontreal.org/en/Montreal\\_Museums.htm](http://www.museesmontreal.org/en/Montreal_Museums.htm)



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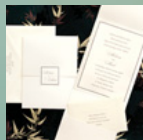
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## Other major events and festivals not to be missed

### Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Film buffs of the north can rejoice for this major international event in Rouyn-Noranda. Running from October 27 to November 1, this 31st annual cinema event brings films and film-industry folk to the north for this cultural extravaganza.

For more info:  
[www.festivalcinema.ca](http://www.festivalcinema.ca)

### Zoom Photo Festival/Saguenay

This photojournalism expo brings mind-blowing shots from around the world to the Chicoutimi borough of the Saguenay from November 1-25.

Check out this world-class event that features 20 exhibitions, including the World Press Photo 12 and National Geographic exhibits as well as projections, workshops and seminars.

For more info: [www.zoomsur.ca/](http://www.zoomsur.ca/)

### QuébecAdabra!

Experience the magic of Quebec City during the holidays with QuébecAdabra!, a special festival of holiday enchantment and wonder running from December 15 to January 15 throughout the city.

Experience exclusive and unique evening entertainment, including architectural projection and encounters with Santa Claus.

For more info:  
[www.quebecadabra.com/en/Home/](http://www.quebecadabra.com/en/Home/)

### Carnaval Glisse et Glace Terrebonne

This unique festival is all about ice and what can be done with it. Running from January 15 to February 15 in Terrebonne, the Île-des-Moulins lock forms a skating rink and central stage for this winter carnival that includes shows and entertainment, evening skating to music by guest DJs and an outdoor wintertime bar with two special major event weekends of fun.

For more info:  
[www.iledesmoulins.com](http://www.iledesmoulins.com)



### Pohénégamook Haut en couleur

If you happen to be in the Bas-St-Laurent region why not check out the province's largest winter gathering for families January 25-27.

Featuring extreme skating races, fireworks, professional-calibre snowmobile drag-racing, children's entertainment, a lumberjack competition, an outdoor snow rave and ice fishing.

For more info:  
[www.pohenegamook.net](http://www.pohenegamook.net)

### Winterlude

Quebec and Ontario are united in activities during Winterlude as it connects the two provinces via the Rideau Canal.

Running from February 1-18, this event features everything from skating to fireworks to ice sculptures. This family event is all about celebrating the best that winter has to offer in Canada's capital.

For more info:  
[www.canadascapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude)

### The Quebec Winter Carnival

Quebec City's mega party is on par with Carnival in New Orleans and in Rio de Janeiro as it has been the largest winter carnival in the world for the last 50 years.

Running from February 1-17, Bonhomme Carnaval plays host to the world as hundreds of thousands descend upon Old Quebec for days of

fun and excitement. Featuring shows, snow rafting, horse-drawn sleigh rides, dog-sledding rides, a children's village, the International Snow Sculpture Competition and events for just about everyone in the entire family.

For more info: [www.carnaval.qc.ca](http://www.carnaval.qc.ca)

### La Fête d'hiver de Rouyn-Noranda

If you are looking for a winter celebration in the north, look no further than the La Fête d'hiver de Rouyn-Noranda.

Running from February 15-17, this festival is all about celebrating outdoors. Featuring dog sledding, tubing, snow sculptures, a boot hockey tournament, foot races, live entertainment and a whole host of indoor and outdoor activities, don't miss this major northern funfest.

For more info:  
[www.lafetedhiver.com](http://www.lafetedhiver.com)

### REGARD - Saguenay International Short Film Festival

If you're looking for some international art and culture in the form of cinema, the Chicoutimi borough of Saguenay has a fun short-film festival running from March 13-17 to chase your winter blues away.

Quebec's most important short-film rendezvous and one of the biggest short-film fests in North America.

For more info:  
[www.regardsurlecourt.com](http://www.regardsurlecourt.com)

# Raising Native awareness

## McGill hosts its second Aboriginal Awareness Week

by Dan Moczula

From September 24-28 McGill University held its 2nd Annual Aboriginal Awareness Week. Events were held on campus to promote awareness of Aboriginal culture and foster cross-cultural dialogue. The events were varied and many, ranging from dream-catcher making workshops to film screenings to guest speakers.

Among the guest speakers were renowned Native stand-up comedian Ryan McMahon and Dr. Pamela Palmater, lawyer and professor.

McMahon is an Ojibway comedian who is currently travelling across Canada on his UnReserved Tour. At the behest of the McGill Indigenous Student

Association, he took time off from his tour to speak about his life and work.

McMahon was born in northwestern Ontario to two residential-school survivors. His early life was “a cycle of dysfunction” because he wasn’t grounded in any cultural identity. McMahon summed up this crisis stating, “I knew I was Native, but I didn’t know what that meant.”

The rest of McMahon’s life was a struggle to define himself as Ojibway in a culture that was outright hostile or patronizing to those of Native descent.

After his graduation from the University of Minnesota with a degree in theatre, McMahon attempted to find a job in the entertainment industry. Although work was plentiful, his cultural

identity came into conflict with entrenched racism.

McMahon was told that he did not sound Native enough when he auditioned for a radioplay. He eventually reevaluated his career after quitting a musical production of *Dances with Wolves* over its simple-minded portrayal of Aboriginal culture. Having had enough with the established entertainment industry, McMahon decided to find his voice as a stand-up comic.

When asked why he chose stand-up, McMahon dead-panned, “Stand-up is one of the least-respected art forms and it is said that Aboriginal people are one of the least-respected people. I guess it just made sense.”

“STAND-UP IS ONE OF THE LEAST RESPECTED ART-FORMS AND IT IS SAID THAT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE ONE OF THE LEAST-RESPECTED PEOPLE, I GUESS IT JUST MADE SENSE.”



Ryan McMahon



McMahon's stand-up is filled with observations about how Native culture and mainstream culture both come together and clash. Although he did not perform any stand-up at McGill, you can find some of his routines on YouTube, as was the following: "We love Walmart. Indian country just loves it. If they'd install smudge bowls in the aisles we'd move in. Some sacred CD shopping right there."

McMahon has flirted with mainstream success many times since he picked up his mic. He has auditioned for Saturday Night Live and performed at Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival. However, McMahon has never altered his act to cater to the mainstream and continues to independently book his tours.

For McMahon, his stand-up comedy is not just about getting laughs, it is about cementing and decolonizing his cultural identity. "Decolonialism is not just theory, it's an active lived thing," said McMahon.

Currently McMahon has his own podcast, Red Man Laughing, and has taped a one-hour stand-up special for the CBC. To find out more about McMahon, follow his frequently hilarious and always thoughtful Twitter account (@rmcomedy) or check out his website ([www.ryanmcmahoncomedy.com](http://www.ryanmcmahoncomedy.com)).

Dr. Pamela Palmater is a Mi'kmaq lawyer, author and an Associate Professor of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University in Toronto. She has also done extensive advocacy for Aboriginal groups on both the federal and provincial level.

Her most recent book is titled *Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity*. She came to McGill to speak about some of the ideas in her book.

In front of an audience of students, professors and Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, she spoke about the complications of being designated "Indian" by the Canadian government.

Palmater gave examples of how the conception of being "Native" has warped over time.

Before colonization, Native identity was determined by involvement in a community. In some tribes this liberal understanding of community extended even to prisoners of war. There were no

"DECOLONIALISM IS NOT JUST THEORY, IT'S AN ACTIVE LIVED THING."



Dr. Pamela Palmater

criteria such blood percentages to determine membership.

Palmater also stressed the fact that there were no material benefits attached to band membership.

Many Canadians understand Native identity solely in terms of material benefits and blood percentages. Palmater pointed to Justin Beiber's infamous comments linking band membership to free gas as representative of the ignorance of the Canadian populace at large.

This shift from an identity grounded in culture to an identity grounded in material benefits and blood percentages occurred when the Canadian government enacted the Indian Act in 1876. This began to define being "Indian" in terms of arbitrary measures.

Palmater also highlighted the sexist nature of being designated "Indian" by the government. The Canadian government used to define status Indians as only those whose grandfathers were Indian. This was meant to deny Native women of any rights or benefits.

Due to the fact that her grandmother married a non-Native, Palmater was only recently granted status as an "official" Indian.

Palmater pointed out that Native communities have internalized these arbitrary regulations and spoke about the need to "decolonize our indigenous identities."

To do this Palmater offered some suggestions to reevaluate band membership criteria. She urged for bands to rethinking about relying solely on blood percentages while maintaining protecting indigenous identity.

Criteria should take into account involvement within a community, language spoken and should allow a band to flourish for several generations.

Palmater finished her lecture with a question-and-answer session.

When asked what her ultimate goal for Aboriginal communities, Palmater said, "restitution instead of reconciliation."

Palmater is still working to fight the wrongs of the past and make a better tomorrow for Native communities.

# The struggle continues, for the kids

## An interview with Cindy Blackstock, Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

by Jesse Staniforth

On October 1, reports surfaced that the government of Canada has spent \$3.1 million attempting to prevent the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) from bringing the issue of Aboriginal child welfare underfunding before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Child welfare services in Aboriginal communities are managed by the federal government, unlike in non-Aboriginal communities, where they are under provincial jurisdiction. Under federal discretion, Aboriginal children receive 22% less funding than non-Aboriginal children receive from the provinces. The suit by the FNCFCS and the AFN seeks to address this gap; in 2007, the two organizations attempted to launch a human-rights challenge over it.

Since that time, the Justice Department, supporting the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, has spent \$3.1 million in legal fees attempting to derail the case with technicalities and to convince judges that the issue shouldn't be decided in court. In April, a Federal Court judge disagreed, directing the case to the Human Rights hearing that the FNCFCS and the AFN hoped for in the first place. Meanwhile, on October 9, the United Nations committee on the rights of the child released its report on Canada's treatment of young people, which found that Aboriginal youths were not being treated equally, particularly in the area of child welfare.

*The Nation* spoke with FNCFCS director Cindy Blackstock from her office in Ottawa.

**The Nation:** If I'm not mistaken, the tribunal is sitting already?

**Cindy Blackstock:** It is. There have been so many efforts by Canada to derail



Cindy Blackstock, Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

this. We were originally set for full hearings on the merits in 2009, and then Canada brought a motion to dismiss on a legal technicality. That set us back close to three years. We had to go to Federal Court and get that ruling overturned – that was made by the [Stephen Harper-appointed] tribunal chair, Shirish Chotalia, who's no longer at the tribunal.

**TN:** She was a very controversial person. There were allegations about her mistreating her subordinates.

**CB:** Certainly, in our case, the Federal Court found her ruling to be unfair, because she took into account 8,000 pages of material that wasn't put properly before her, including a report filed by the government two months after the hearing took place. And yes, there were public reports that she was found responsible for harassing her staff by an independent labour investigator who, in his report, characterizes her management style as "bizarre and baffling". She

was the chair of the tribunal and still remains so, but she went on stress leave two days after the Federal Court ruling in our case came down. She has not returned to the tribunal since that time.

**TN:** I remember hearing about that at the time and thinking it was suspicious.

**CB:** Any time you have someone who's in a position to stand as a role model for all people in terms of upholding human rights, and these types of allegations come forward and are found to be true by an independent investigator, that's a concern. In our case, we were very concerned about her original ruling and management of the case, particularly because it had an impact on kids.

One of the things I'm very aware of is that there's a desperate need to ensure equity for children right now. The first 2,000 days of a child's life are the most critical in terms of their development. We've been at this case now for five years. We're pretty much at that 2,000-



day mark, but we've been set back because of the technicalities the government is using to avoid a full and proper hearing on the facts. The ones paying the price, unfortunately, are children, and that's completely unacceptable.

**TN:** *Why do you think the federal government is holding this up so much?*

**CB:** I can only think they have something to hide, and that something to hide is that there is overwhelming evidence they are in fact discriminating against First Nations children by underfunding child welfare. We need only look to the 9th of this month, when the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child released its Concluding Observations. In section 32, they make an explicit comment that child-welfare funding is inequitable.

So every independent body that's looked at this, from the Auditor General to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to Canada's own documents, suggests that there's inequality there. And I don't think [the federal government of Canada wants] the Canadian public to know that. They want to sweep these things under the rug – it's the only logical argument I can come up with.

If it was me – if someone said I was discriminating against kids, and that was untrue, I would be racing to have a hearing on the merits. Put all the facts on the record—if you have nothing to hide, do it! But this government has spent millions of dollars to avoid just that. Couple that with the efforts to keep APTN [the Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network] from broadcasting [the tribunal hearings], and it doesn't look like an accountable, transparent government.

**TN:** *What's the story behind the APTN broadcasting the hearings?*

**CB:** Back in 2009, when the hearings were originally scheduled to go ahead, APTN had filed an application to broadcast them. We were for it, of course. We believe in the public's right to know, and in public accountability. But Canada objected. We filed 17 affidavits – from Elders, young people, Chiefs – in support of the broadcasting. Canada filed one affidavit with the tribunal chair. It was a

legal clerk who spoke to a lawyer who spoke to an unnamed witness, a public servant, who said they were worried that what they said might damage relationships with First Nations. On the strength of that one affidavit, the same tribunal chair, Shirish Chotalia, overruled and said there would be no broadcasting. APTN then took that to Federal Court and won, so since the case has now been referred back to the tribunal, the tribunal has said that yes, broadcasting would be allowed.

**TN:** *Do you think the desire to keep this information under wraps is motivated by*

“ONE OF THE THINGS I'M VERY AWARE OF IS THAT THERE'S A DESPERATE NEED TO ENSURE EQUITY FOR CHILDREN RIGHT NOW. THE FIRST 2,000 DAYS OF A CHILD'S LIFE ARE THE MOST CRITICAL IN TERMS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT.”

*fiscal conservatism? Is it motivated by racism? Do you have any idea what motivates them to fight so hard against these hearings?*

**CB:** The only reference I have is in the Access to Information documents: they're concerned that this would set a precedent of equity across all services. To me, that's not a concern: that's something we should all be expecting as a bottom line. When it comes to political conservatism, I haven't met one Canadian yet who believes that racial discrimination against children is a legitimate fiscal restraint measure. That's why this case strikes to the core of what Canada's about. If we think we're going to save funds as taxpayers by racially discriminating against children, then let's put it out there and own it. But they're fighting for the right to continue those practices and they don't want Canadians to find out about it, in my view.

**TN:** *Already this year we've seen the Federal Court ruling on the situation at Attawapiskat.*

**CB:** The Federal Court found that there was no reason to send in the third-party

manager. And one of the things the Federal Court raises in its decision was – I don't know the precise wording of it, but something to the effect that, “It's very worrying to the court how little documentation the federal government had about how this decision was made.”

**TN:** *In previous interviews, I've heard you talk about the history of the federal government using financial auditing as a means of punishing communities that brought issues like this to the fore.*

**CB:** Before the Caring Society was around, First Nations agencies reported

getting cuts, or found their program applications weren't approved, if they were to raise concerns with the Department [of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development]. Certainly, that concern was out there in the communities, and some agencies saw these things happen – which meant direct impacts to kids.

They used to go after you if you stood up for something that they disagreed with. Now, they're basically going for every Aboriginal organization.

The Aboriginal Healing Organization was pretty uncontroversial, but they cut it 100%. They cut the AFN by 50%. It doesn't seem to matter now where you are on that continuum anymore. Now, we don't get any money from the feds. But in my day, when the Caring Society was cut 100%, that happened within 30 days of us filing a complaint. Back then, if you were standing up for something the government wasn't supporting, then you were putting yourself at risk of a potential cut. I don't think that's true any longer. There's a broad-based, very concerning pattern across NGOs – not just Aboriginal NGOs, but NGOs in general,

where the government is trying to silence free speech in this country.

They amended charitable tax status in the omnibus bill, and they're coming down hard on that. They're expanding what it is to be an advocacy organization. So even if they de-fund you, and other people fund you, they're after that money too, because, in my view, they want to see you completely gone.

**TN:** *What a mess.*

**CB:** It is a mess. But it's also a real problem that Canadians need to wake up to if they believe in democracy, because this is not what a democratic country does.

**TN:** *This has affected you and your organization directly.*

**CB:** From the Caring Society perspective, I can say that we filed a retaliation complaint after we filed our Human Rights complaint, and we feel that the federal government has retaliated against us as a direct result of having filed that complaint. In our view, that is a contravention of the Canadian Human Rights Act. It also raises huge alarms about freedom of speech. Because, let's face it, we're not raising something that's frivolous. The Auditor General and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child agree with us. No one seems to agree with Canada that there is no problem. We filed a retaliation complaint because it was clear to us that the federal government was getting in the way of us completing our work.

I also filed an individual complaint against the federal government because of the monitoring activity that it's been doing with me on my personal Facebook page, attending different events – systematically going to places where I am, writing up briefing notes and sending them to the departments of Justice and Aboriginal Affairs. But it was mostly this monitoring – getting in on my personal Facebook page and filing documents about the contents of that page – that was really concerning to me. Vic Toews, about a year ago, was tabling legislation that would have allowed that practice to happen with all Canadians. The privacy investigator is still investigating it, but I

think what my case suggests is that they do it anyway, regardless of whether the legislation is in place.

**TN:** *Are they still doing that, at this point?*

**CB:** I don't know. I'm presuming that they are. The last document that I saw, before I referred the whole matter over to privacy investigator, was late 2011. As of that date they were doing it. I have email correspondence between officials at Aboriginal Affairs where they say, in essence, "We applied to monitor her

the Department of Justice for being cross-examined, which I still haven't cashed, and it's from August 2011. I haven't made a penny off of this, nor do I ever intend to. This is not about me. This is about giving every child in the country the chance to grow up with their families and go to good schools.

**TN:** *Which is what they're trying to prevent you from achieving.*

**CB:** It really concerns me that this type of thing is happening in Canada. This is

"THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.FNWITNESS.CA, WITH CLOSE TO 11,000 PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS WATCHING THIS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT'S THE MOST FORMALLY WATCHED HUMAN-RIGHTS CASE IN CANADIAN HISTORY."

Facebook page, but we stopped after six months because Department of Justice was already monitoring it."

In another email written by a lawyer at Aboriginal Affairs, it says that the reason they're doing this monitoring is "to find other motives for the child welfare case." It's explicitly linked to that. I find that kind of behaviour completely unbecoming, and concerning. I have not been following around public officials, or getting onto their Facebook pages. We're going to address their complaints based on the documents that they file and on a public-policy front. But what they've been clearly willing to do is cross a line and violate people's individual privacy to try to undermine the credibility of the complaint.

**TN:** *They believe you have "other motives"? Other than your advocating for the thing your organization exists to advocate for?*

**CB:** Exactly. There are no other motives. I'm not going to get a dime out of this. Even when I filed the privacy violation, what I've asked for is a donation to a charity of my choice. There's no personal benefit for me whatever. Even on my desk, I've got a \$20 cheque from

the type of thing you expect to hear in countries known for their human rights abuses, and yet it's happening here. I have a 19-year-old nephew living with me, and we had to sit down and talk about his internet use. We'd done all the safety stuff when he was younger, about all the inappropriate people out there, but now I have to have the same discussion about the government of Canada possibly monitoring his material. I have no evidence that's happening, but I think it's a reasonable thing for me to worry about.

**TN:** *I'd feel the same way.*

**CB:** One thing I'm not going to do, though, is to stop speaking out on behalf of children, or to not continue to pursue this, because it is critical that this be heard by Canadians. I won't be silenced by this type of inappropriate conduct.

**TN:** *It's amazing to think that's happening.*

**CB:** The thing about it, in our case, is that while a lot of people have conjecture that thing [like spying on organizations] are happening, we can document it, from their own documents. That's what separates our case: we have proof





Cindy Blackstock

through legitimate channels: Access to Information and the Privacy Act.

Luckily, Canadians are not stupid. This government underestimates the goodness of Canadians. That's been my experience. When you present people with the opportunity to learn about something and make up their own minds, they'll engage and they'll critically examine the government. That's why we've got our website, [www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca), with close to 11,000 people and organizations watching this from all over the world. It's the most formally watched human-rights case in Canadian history. We can simply say, "Go

read Canada's side of the story, then read ours, and make up your own mind as a good and moral person who cares about Canada. Figure out yourself who's acting in the best interests of Canadians." The bottom line for me is the facts lead you to a certain place. They've led everybody else who's ever looked at this in a certain direction.

**TN:** Including the Auditor General.

**CB:** Including the Auditor General.

One other thing I'd like to point out is that we've been so grateful for the support of children themselves. We are big believers in the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child, not only in supporting it, but actually doing it as best we can as an organization. That means we have an obligation to include children and young people in matters affecting them – that's article 12 of the convention. With all of our work, we've engaged young people. We had a national competition to select six First Nations youth to go meet with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in February in preparation for Canada's review, because we wanted the committee to hear from the children themselves, in their own voices, what it's like. One of the youths was a young girl from Attawapiskat, Chelsea Edwards, spokesperson for Shannon's Dream, who's saying, "I'm from a community of people living in tents. We have one source of potable water and our school sits next to a contaminated waste dump."

It's really important that people not lose sight of the fact that this is about the kids. I do not want this case to be decided on the basis of the best interests of the Caring Society, or on my personal best interests. Or on [the government of] Canada's best interests. I want this case to be decided on what's best for kids and what's best for the country, because I think those things are the same. I've publicly argued that if Canada loses this case, then all Canadians win. I've not seen one argument forwarded by the federal government in the five years we've been doing this that says, "What we're doing is in the best interests of children." It's always about their own "fairness".

**TN:** That really sums it up. I appreciate that you're out there doing this. I can't think of a more important issue.

**CB:** It's a real honour to do it. That's why we're never going to give up until this thing is done. We think that this is a critical moral turning point for the country. If we don't get this right, then we've lost a lot of what the veterans fought for, for this country. It throws into question our national commitment to human rights, to equity, to freedom and to justice.

# Jamming with Buddy

## A father's encouragement helps a son's dream become reality

by Akiva Levitas

Making your dreams come true is everyone's goal. For some, it takes a lifetime to reach their aspirations, but for one lucky 17-year-old it came early. For Joseph Seth Jolly, Jr., that moment arrived September 21 when he played in front of a crowd of 10,000 people with his hero, blues legend Buddy Guy.

Jolly learned to play the guitar at an early age thanks to the encouragement of his parents. His father, Dr. Joseph Jolly, runs the Native Gospel Ministry in Ottawa and is quite the guitar enthusiast in his own right. For the past 32 years, Dr. Jolly has included his musical passion as a part of his ministry.

Growing up, his father would buy Jolly Jr. small guitars to help him learn the instrument but the boy didn't show much interest. He liked music, Elvis in particular, but wasn't attracted to picking up the guitar.

When Jolly Jr. turned 10, his father introduced him to Creedence Clearwater Revival, a band that would become one of his main inspirations. CCR's sound sparked something in him. Since then he has practiced the guitar diligently and his love of music has grown.

Soon, Jolly Jr. was enrolled in guitar lessons but quickly overtook the pace of learning and quit to progress on his own.

As he made his way through his teenage years, Jolly Jr. learned many of the classic guitar songs from *Wipeout* by the Ventures to *Paint It Black* by the Rolling Stones. His interest in rock and roll soon morphed into that of the blues with Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughn as his new guitar idols.

A major part of his learning experience was going to concerts with his father. Jolly Sr. said, "I never listened to the blues before, so Joseph was teaching me a lot about it."

The most important thing about his growing love of music was the constant support the younger Jolly received from his parents, who made sure that he had what he needed to improve.

Even as the price for guitars increased along with his need for better quality, his parents never stopped supporting him. This taught him the importance of value and Jolly Jr. learned to save up on his own and sell his used guitars in order to cover the costs.

On August 26, Jolly Sr. took his son to see Buddy Guy in Chicago during a book signing. While there, they visited Guy's nightclub where Jolly Jr. got the opportunity to show the blues legend his musical talents. An impressed Guy told him that if the teen came to one of his shows he would invite him onstage to play.



Joseph Jolly with Buddy Guy

That moment came with the help of his parents on September 21 when the Jolly family travelled to Winnipeg, where Jolly Jr. performed with Guy in a dream come true.

Upon returning to Ottawa, Jolly Jr. entered a guitar competition at Redeemer Christian High School, where he is a student. After coming in first place, Jolly Jr. was qualified to represent his school at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada's Rock the River event on September 29 in Ottawa.

Jolly Jr. credited his experience playing with Guy for being able to handle playing in front of a large audience. In the end, he won the contest, but the real victory was that of a dream come true – thanks to his supporting parents.



## Four corners, bad signs

Guatemala's Cuatro Caminos is an important intersection in the Central American nation's western "Altiplano," its mountainous highlands. Depending on which of the directions you take from Cuatro Caminos – west to Quetzaltengo, north to Hehuatenango, or east to Totonicapán – you'll find three major centres of the country's Indigenous Mayan population. The fourth will take you southeast down the mountains' nerve-wracking hairpin turns toward the national capital, Guatemala City.

As a major stop on the PanAmerican Highway, its strategic and economic importance is evident. But the geography still doesn't justify last week's killing of seven Mayans, with dozens

of Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina, a former military intelligence chief, over proposed education and constitutional reforms.

The violent response is a vivid illustration of how little this country has changed since the peace accords that ended a four-decade civil war in the 1990s. Despite the high hopes then, there is a lot of unfinished business. The country's white and mestizo elite still controls a grossly unequal share of its wealth, leaving the only country in the Americas with an Indigenous majority with one of the hemisphere's worst levels of economic disparity.

The stakes were the same when I passed through the Cuatro Caminos with a small human-rights delegation in the spring of 1990. In a nearby town that hosted a military base, we visited a secret safe house that hid targets of the era's ubiquitous death squads before they could escape to one of the many refugee camps in southern Mexico.

I vividly recall the fear and desperation, mixed with hope and determination, among the people I met and interviewed there. Two decades later, the war may be a fading memory, but the issues that led to the armed conflict are not. Guatemala remains a deeply racist nation in which the Mayan majority remains dispossessed and at the mercy of armed thugs, uniformed or not.

Totonicapán's population, which is about 90% Mayan, endures harsh poverty levels in which more than 80% are malnourished. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, the region's communities are also recognized as some of the best organized and least violent in the country, with a deep concern for environmental issues.

According to the international NGO Cultural Survival, "Totonicapán is one of the few territories where Indigenous authorities exercise power, divided in 48 cantons, led by community mayors and a president who serves as the mediator in case of conflicts and as the spokesperson when it is necessary to dialogue beyond the community." Community members who rely on ancestral knowledge of their lands and resources have preserved surrounding forests for generations. It's this type of local organization most feared by the multinational corporations who otherwise enjoy free rein in the country thanks to the bought-and-paid-for political and military elite.



A Guatemalan boy reads a memorial to genocide victims

more wounded, in an assault by the Guatemalan military on a peaceful protest blockade.

The violent incident is a disturbing escalation against increasingly frequent yet peaceful social protest in the divided nation. It recalls the bloodbath of the 1980s, when Guatemala's governing military junta waged wholesale genocide in many regions dominated by the country's Mayan majority. This area of the Altiplano was the scene of numerous massacres and the elimination of dozens of Mayan villages in a systematic effort that we would now recognize as an ethnic-cleansing campaign.

In last week's bloodbath, the non-violent demonstrators from nearby Totonicapán were protesting rising electricity prices and asking for a dialogue with the national govern-

# EMPLOYMENT OFFER



## DIRECTOR OF ACCORD NICHE AND TOURISM PROGRAMS

*Eeyou Istchee Tourism and Tourisme Baie-James are privileged tourism-development partners of Tourisme Québec. As part of their corporate responsibilities, these two Regional Tourism Associations (RTAs) manage mandates designed to foster tourism-related initiatives, including regional cooperation, reception activities, information, signage, promotion, and tourism development.*

### Description

The director of the niche of excellence for Northern Quebec tourism is responsible for implementing tourism initiatives for Eeyou Istchee and Baie-James in accordance with the ACCORD strategy and acts as the coordinator for tourism programs. He or she provides project-management expertise in support of tourism promoters and businesses and their projects as part of the deployment of the ACCORD strategy and action plan and the Quebec Tourism Strategy North of the 49th Parallel.

### Functions and responsibilities

- Implement the niche of excellence strategy
- Actively cooperate in implementing the ACCORD action plan as well as Eeyou Istchee and Baie-James regional action plans
- Inform promoters regarding financial aid programs for tourism projects and advise them on the development of their business plans and financial package
- Create sustainable ties with the various economic-development and tourism-development agents in the region
- Monitor the development of all projects

Compensation: As per experience, from \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year

Status: Permanent position, 35 hours/week

Workplace: Chibougamau and/or Oujé-Bougoumou

Available for travel within and beyond the region

Education & Experience: University degree in administration, tourism management, economic development, business management or regional development or other relevant field. At least 5 years of experience. Other appropriate combinations of education and experience may be considered

Other: Completely fluent English and French (written and spoken); leadership; self-reliance; action and results-oriented; strong analysis and decision-making skills; ease of interaction with members of another culture; strong sense of partnership; excellent knowledge of the region

Candidates interested in this position must send their resume no later than Friday, November 2nd, to:

Jean Chartier

1252 Route 167 South, PB 134, Chibougamau, Quebec G8P 2K6

jchartier@tourismebaiejames.com

1-888-748-8140

Indeed, other incidents in recent months point to an escalation of repression against popular pressure for local influence over Guatemala's rich resources.

In July, a feminist leader in this culturally macho nation was attacked by armed men who tried to lynch her after a protest against abusive mining practices near the community of Quiché.

According to a report by Global Village (an organization from which I have gathered much of the information in this column), she was leading a group of local residents who were demonstrating their refusal to sell community lands to transnational mining corporations.

And last May, Guatemala declared a state of siege in Santa Cruz Barillas, after protests against the construction of a hydroelectric project. This followed the still unsolved killing of community leader and social activist Andrés Francisco Miguel. Once again, this region was the scene of military atrocities during the civil war. Not coincidentally, its people are also highly organized and politicized despite crushing poverty.

None of these stories received much, if any, attention in our mainstream media. The conflicts in Central America were front-page news back in the 1980s, but the age-old struggle to democratize the benefits of natural resources, especially for the Indigenous communities who have always occupied these lands, has not changed. From Eeyou Istchee to Cuatro Caminos, the struggle is one and the same.

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## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

### The Colours Of Change

by Xavier Kataquapit

These days I am surrounded by nature's art. Mother Earth is changing the landscape with incredible colours that she takes from her pallet. The fall colour extravaganza is in full swing up north and vivid yellow, orange, red and green fill the forests. Even though we northerners feel a little sad at the waning of summer, our spirits are lifted with joyful colour all through the northland.

A great way to enjoy the colour forest show is to take a road trip from the far north of Ontario to the southern cities over a period of a couple of weeks. Way up north on the James Bay coast I recall yellow being the predominant fall colour as the leaves changed. Of course, this was a mix with green and brown in the far north forest where only the poplar provided us with yellow streams of colour on the landscape. Bushes added bits of red here and there and the pine-tree green held everything together.

Further south around the North Bay and Sudbury areas in northern Ontario, there are more deciduous trees so the colours are more vivid still with a variety of reds, oranges and yellows throughout the forest. Around the Toronto area and most of southern Ontario, the colours explode into splashes of reds, oranges and yellows while the green represented by the conifer trees dissipates.

To really get the most out of this season I suggest spending as much time as possible on waterfront areas where the amazing colours of the forest are expanded by the mirror effect in the reflection on the water. Being out on the land in the autumn is magical and reminds us of just how beautiful our planet is.

It is interesting to know that all these wonderful colours are brought to us by the trees every year merely due to an necessity for survival. Deciduous trees develop their colours because they are heading into hibernation for the winter. It makes more sense for them to stop supplying nutrients to their leaves as there is less sunlight for production of energy and the trees must cope with freezing temperatures. When the trees stop supplying nutrients to the leaves a process

occurs in which the leaves slowly change colour, die and drop off. The trees expend as little energy as possible to make it through the winter.

Pine trees cope with the environment in a different way. They keep their pine needles because it is too energy expensive for them to shed their foliage. In the north, the summer season is too short for growth so it is more efficient to maintain their green foliage. The cooler year-round weather also makes it harder to decompose nutrients into the soil so it is more energy efficient for pines to maintain their health year round.

Amazingly, the beautiful spectrum of fall colours are the result of trees killing off their leaves so that they can survive the cold season and come to life again in the spring. That kind of process points to my belief that northerners are blessed with changing seasons. The fact that we live through four seasons every year keeps us adaptable, vibrant and makes us strong. Most of us would be lost and bored if we only had one season in the year.

For First Nation people in this country, the changing seasons across Canada have determined our way of life and spirituality. My nomadic ancestors roamed the land as hunters and gatherers and were very close to Mother Earth and nature. The colours of autumn signalled the coming of winter when they could more easily move on the land with snowshoes, dog teams and sleds. The fall colours for my people of the James Bay or Mushkego Cree meant that the geese would be flying south and that gave the opportunity to harvest them for our survival. The Canada goose is in fact a very spiritual part of our culture as we owe much of our survival as a people to this majestic bird.

The fall colours get me very excited and announce the change of seasons. This is a happy time when we should venture out of the house in warm clothes to walk by a lake or river or wander down a forest trail with colours all around us. Better still, if possible, take a slow road trip through the Canadian heartland to witness the change of seasons.

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# 2013

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Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868  
([www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca))

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 ([www.teljeunes.com](http://www.teljeunes.com))

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085  
([www.parenthelpline.ca](http://www.parenthelpline.ca))

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333  
([www.enfant-retourquebec.ca](http://www.enfant-retourquebec.ca))

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626  
([www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca](http://www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca))

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626  
([www.info-reference.qc.ca](http://www.info-reference.qc.ca))

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:  
1-800-363-9010  
([www.sosviolenceconjugale.com](http://www.sosviolenceconjugale.com))

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432  
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) ([www.criss.org](http://www.criss.org))

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688  
([www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info))

Suicide Action Québec:  
1-866-277-3553  
([www.suicide-quebec.net/](http://www.suicide-quebec.net/))

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: [www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources](http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources)

### Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: [aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca](mailto:aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca) or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

## BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES FOSTER HOME SOUGHT

A long-term foster home is being sought for two year old Tom, who was exposed to drugs in utero. Thus far the development of his motor skills is a little delayed. He understands language and is speaking in two word sentences and his progress is being monitored at the Batshaw medical clinic. Tom is feisty and is prepared to battle with anyone who does something which displeases him.

In spite of his situation he is a happy rambunctious two year old, who adores being outside in the open air, where running and jumping is a must in his play. He plays well with other children and is also very comfortable playing alone. He is very cautious of strangers and tends to cling to his caregivers whenever he meets people who are not familiar to him. He has a good daily routine he eats well, has one nap in the afternoon and sleeps through the night. He is not able to dress himself but is able to take off and put on his shoes.

Tom's parents are unable to take care of him, thus he is in need of a two parent family who can make a long-term commitment to him for as long as he needs. An Inuit or an Aboriginal family would be ideal.

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres are in urgent need of families who are willing to open their homes as foster parents to meet the placement needs of children from different racial, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds. In these difficult times, more and more families are feeling unable to take care of their children. As a child protection agency, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres must meet the challenge of this social reality. But we need your help to meet this demand.

Over the last two weeks there has been a great demand for foster homes for young children from newborns to toddlers. The majority of these children are in an emergency foster home waiting for permanent homes of their own. Due to this great demand our bank of homes has been greatly depleted for toddlers like Tom.

For more information about Tom, please call Batshaw Youth Family Centres at 514-932-7161, local 1139.

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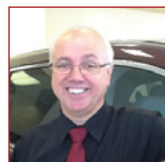
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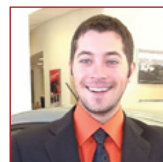
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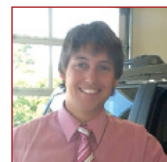
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